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17 Pine St. [illegible] of life, and the [illegible] being dissolution, that [illegible] sufficient

Passed D. Mar. 1st 1828

An Inaugural Dissertation

on

Cynanche Trachealis

presented to the

Medical Faculty

and

Board of Trustees

of the

University of Pennsylvania

in compliance with their regulations respecting Candidates for the Degree

of

Doctor of Medicine

by

Uselma A. Clarke

of Pennsylvania. 1828.

The great diversity of opinion, which has existed with regard to the nomenclature of the disease, forming the subject of this Essay, has rendered the selection of a proper title for it extremely difficult. That such diversity has in fact existed among Authors, is evident from the following rapid sketch.–

By Baillou, it was called "Affectio orthopnoica"; by Mahlbam, "Cynanche stridula"; by Bar and Engstroem, "angina suffocatoria"; by Cullen, Dobson and others, "Cynanche, or Angina Trachealis"; by Home, "Suffocatio stridula"; by Starr, "Morbus strangulatorius"; by Michaelis, "Angina Membranacea, sive Polyposa"; by Dick, "Cynanche Laryngea"; by von Bergen, "Morbus tuculentus infantum"; by Landsen, "Orthopnea Membranacea"; and by Frank, Albers and others, "Trachetis infantum".– These instances, I

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think, will suffice to show that the choice, even of a name for the disease, is calculated to embarrass and perplex. Conceiving however that the name is of minor importance in a dissertation, in which causes and symptoms are to be described, I have not hesitated to choose that, which is the most common among Physicians of our own Country, and which it appears to me conveys the best idea of the leading feature, as well as the seat of the disease. I cannot however avoid the expression of my assent to the opinion of an interesting writer on this point. He remarks, "that it is the common fault of all these names, or epithets, to convey an idea of one part, or symptom of the disease, and not the whole disease itself. To avoid this error, or as he terms it, inconvenience, he employs the term "croup", as one in general use, and as one which cannot lead to erroneous views, inasmuch as it has no definite signification in any language.

To this term I have no objection therefore in this view of it, though it may be questioned, whether or not the opinion of Chegne respecting its etymology, may not render it objectionable, on the same grounds as those which have led to the abandonment of others. He derives it from a word employed in Scotland, viz. "rorp", and this it is conjectured is but an alteration of the French word "rorpie".—

It is not my intention however to dwell longer on this preliminary section of the subject. A few words only will be necessary on the history of the disease, and the individuals most liable to its attacks, before I proceed to notice more important particulars.— It has been considered as peculiarly one of modern ages, but the records of Ancient Medicine warrant us in the belief, that tho' the disease may be more prevalent now, it was not unknown long before Dr Home published his valuable treatise in 1765.— By a late French writer it is asserted wh

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that Baillou, who lived in the middle of the 15th century, gave the first description of it. The same writer expresses his opinion that it has always existed, but that its frequency of developement is owing to the Physical education of children, subjected to the causes that produce it. It is a disease which is usually confined to children from the time they are weaned, till the 9th or 18th year, and it is said that the earlier they are taken from the breast, the more liable they are to it. The robust and hearty are more frequently attacked, than the weak and unhealthy, and those once affected, are very liable to returns of it, of equal force and violence. It often attacks several children of the same family, and this no doubt has given rise to the idea of its being a contagious disease, but it is owing to their being similarly exposed to its exciting causes. It has several times appeared as an Epidemic, in different parts of our Country. — Tho' properly considered as the

[illegible]

[illegible]

Cold or a reduced temperature is the principal agent in the production of this disease.

[illegible] or most state of the atmosphere is [illegible]
[illegible] accompanied [illegible] time, not [illegible]
calculated [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] according [illegible]
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[illegible] participate [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the

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[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to each [illegible]. There is an attempt to [illegible]

[illegible] Sometimes

[illegible] interrupted, the circulation through

[illegible] the face assumes a livid appearance and the lips

[illegible] completely [illegible]

[illegible] sometimes however

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] defective [illegible]

We now come to a consideration of the

Treatment.

From what has been [illegible] the

[illegible] and taken [illegible]

[illegible] should be drawn. Many be-

[illegible] but we

[illegible]

of little importance whence it be taken. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the latter in point.

The proper time [illegible] after we have paid [illegible] sometimes [illegible] are obliged to [illegible] in the root, then it should be [illegible] after they [illegible] that should be promoted by the application of [illegible] water

the use of other emetics.. [illegible] [illegible] the circulation, and to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Tartar emetic, ipecacuanha and salts [illegible]. Tartar emetic [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but owing to the difference in its effects and the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] this is the age of the patient and the severity of the disease, we may use a combination of tart. emet. ipecac. and sal. which is one of the most common and active emetics. These are to be repeated at intervals until the desired effect is obtained, and in a febrile attack, [illegible] if they do not entirely check the disease they almost always relieve the [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] bath has been highly recommended in reducing the

[illegible] of emetics are [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] respiration, and will often of itself prove
emetic by determining to the surface. The patient
should be kept in the bath 10 to 15 minutes or even
longer [illegible] [illegible] advantage from it. The
objection to emetics on the ground that they are too
[illegible] for the [illegible] of our patients is futile,
for it is an acknowledged fact that children un-
der very severe [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] they relatively
bear the operation of powerful medicines better, and
[illegible] diseases [illegible] operations under other
adults sick. Blisters have been also highly re-
commended, the typhoid they are prescribed at the
earliest [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the throat

[illegible] has also been used with success. [illegible] [illegible] not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible] as well as for its emetic effects the [illegible] of Ipecacuan-ha is used and great advantage has been derived from it. In the milder forms of the disease it often acts as a specific cure. With the same view the [illegible] [illegible] has been much spoken of. From its [illegible] effect in Diarrhoea [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] one time [illegible] [illegible] but it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] stage [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the disease [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] made [illegible] [illegible] disease [illegible], and the dose [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] every 4 or 5 hours.

The next remedy I proceed to speak of is Calomel. Not a little has been said of this; by some [illegible]

[illegible] to overcome the disease. They accordingly resort to it at first and continue it occasionally till they have subdued the disease. They give it in doses of from [illegible] to [illegible] grains proper by operation, thus keeping up a constant irritation upon the intestinal canal, which prevents the recurrence, [illegible] substituting a new action in place of the diseased one, which [illegible] young children and continued till there is a discharge of green bilious matter, which is the criterion of its having taken effect and carried off the thicker parts of the blood, now which the membranes are [illegible] formed but by far the best manner of exhibiting it, is the practice of the physicians of this country: after having prepared the system by bleeding and cathartics. They give it in doses of from 6 to 10 grains, operates according to circumstances. They in such doses therefore it is [illegible] on the bowels, and

thus guard against any injurious effects it might have on the system. I should not here mention a [illegible] a method of cure or of relief suggested to the profession by Doctor Chapman. It is the inhalation of tobacco smoke by pipe or cigar. And the cases treated of its efficacy are sufficient to induce a [illegible] of the kind. We believe however it would be considered a [illegible] practice in the hands of a young and inexperienced physician, however safe and effectual it may have proven under the management of so skilful and enlightened author.

But there is another disease to which [illegible] which [illegible] to be dependent [illegible] more particularly. It is [illegible] the pathology of the disease. We allude to the formation of an abnormal [illegible] in the [illegible] and [illegible] need to be especially [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] membrane. [illegible] of the membrane in the throat [illegible]

of late to show that it originated in the upper part of the Trachea and extended downwards. By those who have adopted this view local applications have been strongly recommended. By Bretonneau of Tours the muriatic acid is especially insisted on. It is to be applied to the back part of the fauces by means of a sponge attached to a whalebone probang and the same [illegible] water [illegible] used with [illegible] made into a [illegible] applied several times. The last remedy has been recommended from the earliest times, in various forms of inflammation of the throat. Dr. Mackenzie of Edinburg prefers a solution [illegible]; others the direct xx use of the solid caustic. It is to be applied by a camel-hair brush. It has been said that [illegible] the action extended into the larynx [illegible] inflammation of the diseased surface [illegible] bad consequences have arisen from the practice. It has also been recommended to excite vomiting by the use of emetics [illegible] the [illegible] by which the membrane is loosened and brought up.

This leads me to a consideration of the medical treatment of the disease with the exception of the use of the knife. Dr. a few drops of which may be exhibited with advantage, after the inflammatory action has subsided, to allay the cough & hoarse sensation. By the use of one of these curious instruments we shall in most cases be able to subdue the disease. All therefore that remains for us now, is to consider the propriety of the operation in chronic croup occasions which must have been said. From the little benefit derived from it in most cases, and from the appearances presented on dissection we can rarely anticipate success. But when we consider the case with which the operation can be performed and that it is often our last resource, and that it has in a few instances proved successful we should by all means propose it, stating at the same time to the friends the chance of success, that we may not be censured in case we fail. Where the obstruction is owing to mucus in the Trachea or bronchia the operation may succeed but it is no proof

ally fails, from effusions having taken place in the Lungs before it is thought expedient to resort to it.. When a membrane is formed in the Trachea, we shall have little to expect, unless it is loosely attached, and even here, tho' we might remove the upper part, the lower being fluid would remain, and equally impede respiration and in extracting a part, great danger, and in some instances death has occurred, from both the natural and artificial opening being closed at the same time After examining a number of authors on the subject, as well as numerous journals, I have been able to find but five cases in which the operation has succeeded, out of the many that have been performed, two of these were by Mr Chevallier, one by P. Hume of Coventry, one by Bretonneau of Tours, and one by Mr. Andree in 1782.. I would much prefer therefore a close adherence to the medical treatment already laid down, than a dependance on the aid to be furnished by any Surgical operation.

It may not however be improper in closing this outline of the Names, Nature, Causes, and Cure of Cynanche Trachealis, to state, that it is a disease, which in many instances demands all that can be rendered by the Practitioner of Medicine, the Surgeon, and the Pharmaceutist, to secure its successful and happy issue; and it is one too, which after all these have been skilfully, promptly, energetically, and vigilantly employed, will baffle their united efforts, and press down the dearest objects of earthly love, to an untimely grave.

I have now, Gentlemen brought my essay to a conclusion, and am fully sensible of its many imperfections.- I have not offered to your notice any new views on the subject, or proposed any new mode of practice: for this my inexperience disqualifies me; and I now submit it to your consideration, with the highest confidence in your liberality.-

Uselma Augustus Clarke.